

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-07

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FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3455
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TUNIS

S E C R E T TRIPOLI 0942

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, LY, IS
SUBJECT: QADHAFI'S NEXT MOVE

SUMMARY: SERIES OF RECENT MIDDLE EAST POLICY SETBACKS FOR COL QADHAFI LEADS EMBASSY TO BELIEVE HE MAY NOW GIVE EVEN GREATER IMPETUS TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF A TANGIBLE "SUCCESS" WHICH WILL SUPPOSEDLY DEMONSTRATE LIBYA'S PRIMACY IN AREA. WHILE SEVERAL OPTIONS ARE PROBABLY READILY AVAILABLE TO COL QADHAFI FOR USE AGAINST HIS ARAB ENEMIES IN CAIRO, TUNIS AND ELSEWHERE, LARG'S EXPRESSED OUTRAGE AND HUMILIATION OVER ISRAEL'S SPECTACULAR RESCUE OPERATION IN UGANDA SUGGEST TO US THAT THE LIBYAN COLONEL MAY ATTEMPT SOMETHING EQUALLY DEVASTATING AGAINST ISRAELI OR ALLIED INTERESTS. END SUMMARY.

1. AS ISRAEL AND OTHER WESTERN COUNTRIES REJOICE

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OVER SPECTACULAR RESCUE OF HIJACK HOSTAGES IN

UGANDA, MOOD OF ANGER, HUMILIATION AND OUTRAGE PREVAILS OVER THE "AZZIZA BARRACKS" HEADQUARTERS OF RCC CHAIRMAN COL QADHAFI HERE IN TRIPOLI. MOOD, AS REFLECTED IN THE EDITORIAL OF GOVERNMENT CONTROLLED DAILY AL-JEHAD, FOREBODES OF FUTURE AND PERHAPS MORE VIOLENT TERRORIST ACTIVITIES SPONSORED BY THE COLONEL. THE EDITORIAL, IF NOT DRAFTED BY COLONEL QADHAFI UNDOUBTEDLY HAD HIS APPROVAL. IT DESCRIBED ISRAELI RESCUE OPERATION AS A GRIEVOUS INSULT TO "DIGNITY OF PALESTINIAN REVOLUTION", AND DECRIED "ARROGANCE AND SUPERIORITY COMPLEX OF RACIST, ZIONIST ENEMY OVER PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY THE ARAB PEOPLE.":

2. OF GREATER SIGNIFICANCE, HOWEVER, WAS THE EDITORIALS' CRITICISM OF THE TERRORISTS. IRONICALLY, IT TOOK THE FORM OF A REMINDER TO TERRORISTS OF A STATEMENT AGGEEDELY MADE BY ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER RABIN, THE ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER IS QUOTED AS SAYING "ISRAEL HAS NOTHING FOR TERRORISTS EXCEPT BULLETS." THEREFORE, EDITORIAL CONCLUDES TERRORISTS IN UGANDA WERE "BUILDING CASTLES IN AIR".

3. EDITORIAL'S SUGGESTION THAT TERRORISTS SHOULD DEAL MORE HARSHLY WITH THEIR VICTIMS IS BLATANT, AND WE FEAR, WILL PROBABLY BE HEEDED IN FUTURE TERRORIST INCIDENTS SPONSORED BY LIBYA.

4. WHILE WE MAKE NO PRETENSE TO PSYCHOANALYSIS OF COL QADHAFI, WE DO BELIEVE HIS SENSE OF INEPTNESS AND INFERIORITY HAS BEEN EXACERBATED BY ISRAELI RESCUE OPERATION WHICH OCCURRED AS LIBYAN BACKED COUP ATTEMPT IN KHARTOUM ALSO FAILED, AND PRESIDENT NUMEIRI PUBLICLY EXPOSED LIBYA'S CULPABILITY BEFORE OAU.

5. THE FAILURES OF THE HIJACKERS IN UGANDA, WHO, MAY HAVE BEEN FINANCED BY THE COLONEL, AND COUP ATTEMPT IN SUDAN OCCUR IMMEDIATELY ON THE HEELS OF LIBYAN PM JALLUD'S FAILURE TO ACHIEVE AN EFFECTIVE CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT IN LEBANON. PRECEDING THESE EVENTS WAS COLONEL'S DECISION TO QUIT PROPAGANDA WAR HE HAD DECLARED AGAINST TUNISIA AND EGYPT INTELLECTUALLY OUTMANNED AND VERBALLY OUT-SECRET

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GUNNED ON TWO FRONTS, EMBARRASSED BY ARREST OF WOULD-BE LIBYAN ASSASSINS IN ROME, TUNISIA AND CAIRO, THE COLONEL THREW IN THE TOWEL AND UNILATERALLY SILENCED LIBYA'S MEDIA.

6. AS IF THIS SERIES OF FAILURES WERE NOT ENOUGH TO RANKEL COL QUAHAFI, INSULT WAS ADDED TO INJURY WHEN A REPORTEDLY DEMENTED, YOUNG LIBYAN, WITH AUDACITY AND A TOY GUN, HIJACKED WITH RELATIVE EASE, ONE OF LARG'S

NEW BOEING 727S.

7. FROM PERSPECTIVE OF EYE OF THE TERRORIST STORM
HERE IN TRIPOLI, WE, AS OUR BRITISH COLLEAGUES SUSPECT
THIS SERIES OF FAILURES WILL MOTIVATE THE COLONEL TO
SPONSOR SPECTACULAR AND PERHAPS SUICIDAL TERRORIST
INCIDENT IN NEAR FUTURE. WHILE WE CAN ONLY
SPECUALTE, WE DO BELIEVE COL QADHAFI WILL DIRECT HIS
WRATH AGAINST AN ISRAELI TARGET BECAUSE OF THE UGANDA
RESCUE OPERATION. OF EVEN GREATER CONCERN IS THAT THE
COLONEL APPEARS TO HAVE PUBLICLY ISSUED INSTRUCTIONS TO
TERRORISTS TO GIVE NO QUARTER TO ITS VICITMS. CONTRARY
TO WIDE SPECULATION OF WESTERN PRESS THAT DEATHS OF TERRORISTS
IN UGANDA WILL DETER FUTURE INCIDENTS, WE CAN ONLY CONCLUDE
COLONEL IS EVEN MORE DETERMINED TO STRIKE A BLOW AGAINST
HIS PERENNIAL ENEMY.
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